

# Appendix F

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TRIBAL POLICY

Adopted: January 16, 1991

Consistent with the Centennial Accord and Washington's governance by separate independent state officials, the Department of Natural Resources recognizes the sovereign status which has been accorded Washington's twenty-six federally recognized Indian tribes. The department shares with the tribes the objectives of proper stewardship of public resources and respects the values and culture represented by tribal governments.

The department will conduct relations with Washington's tribes as one government to another. Consistent with the "government-to-government" relationship, on issues of mutual importance the Commissioner of Public Lands and the Supervisor of the department will represent the department in dealings with their appropriate tribal counterparts. Consistent with the government-to-government policy, the department recognizes it is in the best interest of all parties to resolve issues and concerns outside of the courts whenever possible.

Furthermore, it is the department's policy to resolve mutual issues and concerns with the tribes at the lowest organizational level of governmental authority. Technical personnel should resolve technical issues and refer policy disagreements to appropriate representatives within the governmental structure. The first level of policy for the department will be represented by the appropriate Regional Manager. Department staff will work in good faith with tribal staff.

Department executives and managers will regularly meet with their respective tribal counterparts to discuss issues of mutual concern. Issue resolution between the department and tribes will receive priority attention and staffing.

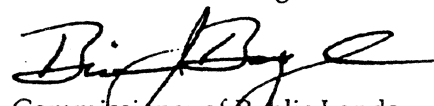
Cooperation with tribal governments is emphasized. The department in good faith will exhaust all reasonable means of negotiation and mediation before pursuing judicial resolution. In negotiations, the department will seek outcomes mutually beneficial to the tribes and the state.


The department seeks to more fully understand and appreciate the unique values and cultures represented by the tribes and will work toward public understanding of tribal rights and cooperative management.

Similar tribal governments, the Department of Natural Resources has many management and regulatory responsibilities for lands and natural resources in Washington State. The department seeks recognition by the tribes of the department's trust and other responsibilities on behalf of the state.

In assigning responsibility for issues and programs of particular interest to the tribes, the department will fully consider individuals with particular knowledge and expertise in tribal affairs.

The department will provide information on its programs and organization to the tribes and invites the tribes to submit reciprocal information about tribal programs to facilitate issue awareness and governmental relations.

  
Commissioner of Public Lands

  
Supervisor  
Department of Natural Resources